

HB

114

**CS for HB 114 (JUD) Inhalant Abuse
By Representative Mary Kapsner**

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Sec.	Statute	Existing	Changes
1	AS 11.76.200 Criminal Law Miscellaneous Offenses Abuse of inhalants	None. New section added.	A person commits the offense of abuse of inhalants if the person smells or inhales any inhalant, other than alcoholic beverages, with the intent of causing intoxication. This section doesn't apply to the administration of a controlled substance, drug, or other substance in a medical context. A court may suspend the imposition of sentence, place the defendant on probation under AS 12.55.085 (Code of Criminal Procedure; Sentencing and Probation; Suspending imposition of sentence), and require the defendant to complete an inhalant abuse treatment program.
2	AS 47.10.019 Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Children in Need of Aid Children's Proceedings Limitations on determinations	The court can't find a minor to be a child in need of aid under this chapter solely on the basis that the child's family is poor, lacks adequate housing, or exhibits a lifestyle that is different from the standard of the community. This section may not be construed to prevent a court from finding that a child is in need of aid if the child has been subjected to conduct or conditions described in AS 47.10.011-47.10.015 (deals with abandonment, neglect, and physical harm).	Adds to the list that a child has been taken into protective custody and placed with a relative, another person willing to care for the minor, a shelter, a program, or a facility under AS 47.37.165 (see Sec. 4). Why is some of this stuff in there?
3	AS 47.12.030(b) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Delinquent Minors Juvenile Delinquency Provisions inapplicable	List of offenses for which a minor may be charged as an adult.	Adds the offense of abuse of inhalants as described in Sec. 1 of this Act.
4	AS 47.37.165 Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Services for minors	None. New section added.	An officer can take a minor into custody who is not otherwise subject to arrest, detention, or protective custody if the officer has reasonable cause to believe the minor is under the influence of alcohol, inhalants, or drugs and subject to citation for violation of AS 04.16.050 (Alcoholic Beverages; Regulation of Sales and Distribution; Possession, control, or consumption by persons under the age of 21) or AS 11.76.200 (see Sec. 1). The minor must also be unwilling or unable to exercise judgement necessary to protect their health and safety. If an officer takes a minor into custody, they

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Sec.	Statute	Existing	Changes
			<p>must take the minor to their parent or guardian or to a relative, shelter, program, or facility suitable for the minor or use the procedures provided in AS 47.37.170 (Welfare, Social Services & Institutions; Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act; Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs). An officer, relative, other person, or a representative of a shelter, program, or facility shall notify the minor's parent or guardian ASAP when the minor is not placed with the parent or guardian. when a minor has been placed and is required to be released from a treatment facility, they will be returned to their parent or guardian or a relative or another person willing to care for the minor. If no suitable person can be found, the department can be notified by the person or program caring for the minor.</p>
5	<p>AS 47.37.170(b) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs</p>	<p>Deals with procedures for people who appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.</p>	<p>Adds inhalants.</p>
6	<p>AS 47.37.170(d) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs</p>	<p>Deals with procedures for people who appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.</p>	<p>Adds inhalants.</p>
7	<p>AS 47.37.170(f) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs</p>	<p>Deals with procedures for people who appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.</p>	<p>Adds inhalants.</p>
8	<p>AS 47.37.170(g) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs</p>	<p>Deals with procedures for people who appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.</p>	<p>Adds inhalants.</p>
9	<p>AS 47.37.170(i) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act</p>	<p>Deals with procedures for people who appear to be incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.</p>	<p>Adds inhalants.</p>

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Sec.	Statute	Existing	Changes
	Treatment and services for intoxicated persons and persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs		
10	AS 47.37.180(a) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Emergency commitment	Deals with when a person may be committed for emergency treatment, including being incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.	Adds inhalants
11	AS 47.37.190(a) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Involuntary commitment	List of who may petition the court for an involuntary commitment order for a person who is an alcoholic or drug abuser.	Adds inhalant abuser.
12	AS 47.37.205(a) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Procedure for recommitment following 30-day commitment	Outlines procedure for recommitting an alcoholic or drug abuser.	Adds inhalant abuser.
13	AS 47.37.235(c) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Limitations on liability; bad faith application a felony	Punishment for initiating an involuntary commitment petition without having good cause to believe that the person is an alcoholic or drug abuser.	Adds inhalant abuser.
14	AS 47.37.270(1) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Definitions	Definition for alcoholic or drug abuser.	Adds inhalant abuser. Defined as someone who demonstrates increased tolerance, suffers from withdrawal, has habitual lack of self-control concerning usage causing significant hazard to their health, and continues to use despite the consequences. Additionally, they use inhalants on more than an occasional basis, use of inhalants has damaged their health or is likely to, and use impairs their judgement so that they continue to use inhalants despite the consequences. How is B different from A except in the fact that is about inhalants only.
15	AS 47.37.270(10) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Definitions	Definition of hazardous volatile material or substance.	Inhalant added to this definition heading.
16	AS 47.37.270(11) Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Definitions	Definition of incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.	Adds inhalants.
17	AS 47.37.270(14)	Definition of intoxicated person.	Adds use of inhalants to the definition.

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Sec.	Statute	Existing	Changes
	Welfare, Social Services & Institutions Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act Definitions		

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 114(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/16/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Relating to abuse of inhalants BRU: Juvenile Justice
 Component: Probation Services
 Sponsor: Representative Kapsner
 Requester: House HES Component Number: 2134

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	***	***	***	***	***	***

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	***	***	***	***	***	***

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

***The Division has been unable to obtain any estimates as to the number of juvenile inhalant abusers we might expect to see sentenced to periods of incarceration for violation of this offense. Without an understanding of the extent of the problem, there is no reasonable way to estimate the fiscal impact on the youth facility budgets throughout the state. Because of the possibility of significant neurological impairment associated with inhalant abuse, even a small number of these offenders may tax the resources of our youth facilities. The Division is submitting an indeterminate fiscal note to indicate we believe there would be a fiscal impact, but there are too many unknowns to be able to calculate what that impact might be.

Amending this bill to make inhalant abuse a violation rather than a misdemeanor would negate the concern for the fiscal impact this bill would have on youth detention center services.

Prepared by: George Buhite Phone 465-2212
 Division: Juvenile Justice Date/Time 2/15/01 4:23 PM
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 2/22/01 8:41 AM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 114(HES)
(H) Publish Date: 3/16/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
Title: An Act relating to abuse of inhalants BRU: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Svcs
Component: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Grants
Sponsor: Kapsner
Requester: House HESS Component Number: 1239

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	75.0	75.0				
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

If HB 114 is not amended it mandates treatment that is not available in many areas of the state. If not amended it is estimated that no more than 30 adults and 30 juveniles would be required to enter treatment and have their sentence suspended in any given year. In a survey of persons in substance abuse treatment in August 1998 they found that 175 (31%) of 550 clients had a history of use of inhalants. It is difficult to determine from this how many might be arrested and sent to treatment in a given year. We feel that the numbers above represent a reasonable estimate.

Based on this number we would estimate a cost of 212.0 a year in added treatment costs. This is based on using intensive outpatient level of care and mandating contact with the person for at least one year. On the next page is the calculation for this cost.

Prepared by: Ernest Turner, Director Phone 465-2071
Division: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Date/Time 2/20/01 4:45pm
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 2/22/01 8:37 AM
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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ANALYSIS: (continued)

In addition, many programs would need specific training for providing this level of care to adult inhalant abusers. The estimated costs would be \$75.0 for FY02 and FY03 for training to bring someone with appropriate expertise in both adult and adolescent treatment to Alaska, provide training in several rural sites and cover costs of follow-up visits to reinforce training. This would also leave us with trained persons, a developed curriculum and allow for future training to be done by persons already trained in Alaska.

Phase I Intensive Outpatient 6 weeks

Assessment	\$100
10 Hours intensive outpatient/week @\$45	\$2,700
Two written reports for courts	\$60
Total Phase I costs	\$2,860

Phase II Continuing Care 20/weeks

1 group per week @\$20	\$400
Five care coordination of 30 min.	\$75
Five written reports for courts	\$150
Total Phase II costs	\$625

Phase III Extended Continuing Care 26 weeks

1 group every 2 weeks @\$20	\$260
Six care coordination of 30 min.	\$90
Six written reports for courts	\$180
Total Phase III costs	\$530

Total 12 month costs including indirect costs @20% \$4,818

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: CSHB 114(JUD)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/20/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act relating to abuse of inhalants." BRU: Legal & Advocacy Service
 Component: Public Defender Agency

Sponsor: Representative Kapsner
 Requester: (H) Judiciary Component Number: 1631

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL						

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill is not expected to have any fiscal impact on the Public Defender Agency.

Prepared by: Barbara Brink, Director Phone 334-4414
 Division: Public Defender Agency Date/Time April 18, 2001
 Approved by: Jim Duncan, Commissioner Date 4/18/01
 Agency: Department of Administration

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSHB 114(JUD)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/20/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Relating to abuse of inhalants BRU: Juvenile Justice
 Component: Probation Services
 Sponsor: Representative Kapsner
 Requester: House (JUD) Component Number: 2134

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This version of the bill makes inhalant abuse a violation rather than a misdemeanor and would result in a zero fiscal impact to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Prepared by: George Buhite Phone 465-2212
 Division: Juvenile Justice Date/Time 4/18/01 9:53 AM
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date 4/18/01 9:53 AM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 5
 Bill Version: CSHB 114(JUD)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/20/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: An act relating to abuse inhalants BRU: Alcohol & Drug Abuse Svcs
 Component: Alcohol/Drug Abuse Grants
 Sponsor: Rep. Kapsner
 Requester: House (JUD) Component Number: 1239

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	75.0	75.0				
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	364.0	364.0	289.0	289.0	289.0	289.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CS HB 114(HES) mandates treatment for persons convicted of inhalant abuse and that is not available in many areas of the state. ADA estimates that no more than 30 adults and 30 juveniles would be required to enter treatment and have their sentence suspended in any given year. In a survey of persons in substance abuse treatment in August 1998 they found that 175 (31%) of 550 clients had a history of use of inhalants. It is difficult to determine from this how many might be arrested and sent to treatment in a given year. We feel that the numbers above represent a reasonable estimate.

Based on this number we would estimate a cost of 289.0 a year in added treatment costs. This is based on using intensive outpatient level of care and mandating contact with the person for at least one year. On the next page is the calculation for this cost.

Prepared by: Ernest J. Turner, Director Phone (907) 465-2071
 Division: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Date/Time 4/18/01 9:57 AM
 Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant Date _____
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ANALYSIS: (continued)

Contractual Line 300 -

In addition, many programs would need specific training for providing this level of care to adult inhalant abusers. The estimated costs would be \$75.0 for training/year for a two year period to bring someone with appropriate expertise in both adult and adolescent treatment to Alaska, provide training in several rural sites and cover costs of follow-up visits to reinforce training. This would also leave us with trained persons, a developed curriculum and allow for future training to be done by persons already trained in Alaska.

Grants Line 700 -

Phase I Intensive Outpatient 6 weeks

Assessment	\$100
10 Hours intensive outpatient/week @\$45	\$2,700
Two written reports for courts	\$60
Total Phase I costs	\$2,860

Phase II Continuing Care 20/weeks

1 group per week @\$20	\$400
Five care coordination of 30 min.	\$75
Five written reports for courts	\$150
Total Phase II costs	\$625

Phase III Extended Continuing Care 26 weeks

1 group every 2 weeks @\$20	\$260
Six care coordination of 30 min.	\$90
Six written reports for courts	\$180
Total Phase III costs	\$530

Total 12 month costs including indirect costs @20% \$4,818/person

HB114

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Bill would make inhalant abuse a crime

By CATHY BROWN Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU--Rep. Mary Kapsner wants to make inhalant abuse a crime punishable by treatment.

Kapsner, D-Bethel, is sponsoring a bill that would make inhalant abuse a misdemeanor and require courts to put offenders on probation and have them get treatment.

The bill also lets law enforcement officers or emergency medical workers take someone who's high on inhalants into protective custody until the drug wears off.

A relative, doctor or treatment center administrator could also petition a judge to put a person incapacitated by inhalant abuse into treatment for 30 days without the addict's consent. The administrator could petition to extend that commitment to 180 days.

Inhalant abuse can kill users or cause lasting physical harm, including brain damage, Kapsner said at a news conference Tuesday on the bill.

"The goal of this bill is to get assessment and treatment for abusers of inhalants," Kapsner said. The problem is widespread in Alaska, she said.

"We have villages that have very alarming rates," Kapsner said. In one village, she said, there were reports that up to 90 percent of fifth and sixth graders were "huffing."

She appeared at the news conference with representatives from the nonprofit Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp., which is scheduled to open Alaska's only inhalant abuse treatment center in August in Bethel. Federal funding paid for the center.

Inhalant abusers need specialized treatment because inhalants affect the body differently than other drugs, said Jim Henkelman, statewide outreach coordinator for the corporation's inhalant intervention project. Treatment

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needs to address behavioral problems caused by the drugs' physical damage, such as impulsiveness and impaired judgment, he said.

Many of those caught under the bill would not need long-term treatment, said Sandra Mironov, behavioral health administrator for the health corporation. Some might just need education. An assessment would determine how long they'd been using and how severe their problem is, she said.

Children abuse inhalants in urban and rural areas, Henkelman said. But the problem is more pronounced in rural areas because urban young people have greater access to marijuana and alcohol.

More than 1,400 substances can be intoxicating if inhaled, including gasoline, glue and hairspray, Henkelman said.

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HB 114

Unofficial results showed LeDoux leading with 1,114 votes over Heinrichs' 439 and McFarland's 376, according to the borough clerk's office.

LeDoux replaces Gary Stevens, who defeated her in the race for state House.

Absentee and questioned ballots are to be counted by next week. The Borough Assembly will certify the election Thursday and the new mayor is to be sworn in March 5.

LeDoux will finish the rest of Stevens' term. He would have faced re-election in October.

-- The Associated Press

Juneau

House passes bill protecting voters from workers' mistakes

The state House has passed a bill that would protect voters from some election workers' mistakes.

The bill allows absentee or questioned ballots to be counted even if they don't have the required signatures from an election worker.

Rep. John Coghill, R-North Pole, introduced House Bill 109 after hearing from a voter in his district who cast a questioned ballot in November and later learned it didn't count because an election worker forgot to sign the ballot envelope. Coghill said voters shouldn't be penalized if they've done everything right.

"It's a pretty tough thing to get an envelope back in the mail saying, 'Your vote didn't count because an election official made a mistake,'" Coghill said.

Rep. John Davies, D-Fairbanks, said he initially hesitated to support the bill because of concerns it could open the door to election fraud, but changed his mind after spending an hour talking with Division of Elections officials about other safeguards against fraud.

"I'm satisfied they have enough checks and balances in the system," Davies said.

Out of almost 51,000 absentee and 22,000 questioned ballots cast in November, three were disqualified because an election official's signature was missing, according to the state Division of Elections.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday 38-0. It now goes to the Senate.

-- The Associated Press

JUNEAU

Rural lawmaker wants to get tough on 'huffing'

State Rep. Mary Kapsner wants to make inhalant abuse a crime punishable by treatment.

Kapsner, D-Bethel, is sponsoring a bill that would make inhalant abuse a misdemeanor and require courts

to put offenders on probation and have them get treatment.

The bill also would let law enforcement officers or emergency medical workers take someone who's high on inhalants into protective custody until the drug wears off.

A relative, doctor or treatment center administrator could also petition a judge to put a person incapacitated by inhalant abuse into treatment for 30 days without the person's consent. The administrator could petition to extend that commitment to 180 days.

Inhalant abuse can kill users or cause lasting physical harm, including brain damage, Kapsner said at a news conference Tuesday.

"The goal of this bill is to get assessment and treatment for abusers of inhalants," Kapsner said. The problem is widespread in Alaska, she said.

"We have villages that have very alarming rates," Kapsner said. In one village, she said, there were reports that up to 90 percent of fifth- and sixth-graders were "huffing."

-- The Associated Press

WASILLA

New lease on life for Mat-Su trash this weekend

Valley residents have an opportunity this weekend to recycle household stuff that they might otherwise throw away.

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions is sponsoring a one-stop dropoff Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mat-Su central landfill off the Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

Residents can recycle newspaper, aluminum, glass, plastic including HPDE #2, magazines and more. For a complete list and directions, go to the group's website at <http://www.valleyrecycling.org>.

Mollie Boyer, the group's executive director, said the group eventually hopes to set up a permanent recycling center at the landfill.

-- The Associated Press

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